

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04499 011523Z

ACTION DOE-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07

SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /149 W

-----037484 011531Z /75

P R 011319Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6065

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AHEMBASSY MADRID 647

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS ATHENS 4499

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS TECH, ENRG, OTRA, GR

SUBJECT: VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL SOLAR WORK GROUP-

EUROPEAN TRIP SEGMENT

REF: STATE 133971

1. WE WELCOME VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR WORKING GROUP. EMBASSY CONTACTS ARE MS. DOROTHY BLACK AND MR. LARRY SEMAKIS.
 2. EMBASSY HAS FACILITIES THROUGH AMERICAN -HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO CONTRACT FOR INTERPRETERS, BUT WE EXPECT MOST GREEK COUNTERPARTS IN SCIENTIFIC AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS WILL SPEAK ENGLISH.
 3. THE GOG IS INTERESTED IN UTILIZING SOLAR ENERGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO IMPORTED OIL, AND ACCORDING TO NATIONAL ENERGY COUNCIL (NEC) PROJECTIONS, SOLAR ENERGY
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04499 011523Z

WILL CONTINUE TO MEET 2 PERCENT OF ENERGY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH 1985, AND 10 PERCENT AFTER 1990. HOWEVER, AS YET NO SPECIFIC MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN. SO FAR. SOLAR ENERGY COMMERCIALIZATION HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO WATER HEATING. WE ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT 20,000 SOLAR WATER HEATERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED FOR HOUSEHOLD USE. THE PRINCIPAL LOCAL PRODUCERS ARE CALPAK (A BP SUBSIDIARY), CALORIA (UNDER LICENSE FROM THE ISRAELI FIRM MIROMIT), SOLE,

AND PHAETHON, ALL LOCATED IN THE ATHENS AREA. ON THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SIDE, THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH SOLAR ENERGY

AND ITS APPLICATIONS. ALSO, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WILL BE HELD IN ATHENS JULY 10-15, DURING WHICH THE FINDINGS OF THE FIRST PART OF A STUDY ON THE PROPOSED

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE WILL BE REVIEWED. THIS PROJECT IS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (FORMERLY ERDA) AND THE GREEK NATIONAL ENERGY COUNCIL (NEC).

4. ALTHOUGH IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY COMMERCIALIZATION IN GREECE DO NOT APPEAR TO US EXTENSIVE, WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE A USEFUL PROGRAM FOR THE GROUP WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SCIENTISTS AND BUSINESSMEN.

5. HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE ARRANGED AS SOON AS SEPTTEL (PARA 8 E OF REFTTEL) IS RECEIVED.
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